A New Place to Meet and Talk with Collectors

Posted on 5/1/2002

The Collectors' Society has added discussion Boards that are an exciting part of our community. If you're not familiar with the idea, this is a bit like an online bulletin board where collectors can post messages about coins they're looking for, or their opinions on events in the collecting world.

The Collectors' Society has added discussion Boards that are an exciting part of our community. If you're not familiar with the idea, this is a bit like an online bulletin board where collectors can post messages about coins they're looking for, or their opinions on events in the collecting world. Other collectors will read those comments and reply with their views. It sounds simple, but the boards can be a tremendous source of knowledge about collecting. It's also just plain fun to be able to share your collecting passion from your own home with other people who know exactly what you're talking about.

You can access the boards through the new "Boards" link in the menus at the top of the Collectors' Society or the NGC home page. These boards are for the use and enjoyment of the members of the Certified Collectors' Society, as well as **all** collectors in general. It's **free** to participate, just register a name and join in!

The forums are already a hot spot for our coin collectors, and the community promises to continue growing and thriving. Stop by and say hi!

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

SIXBID.COM EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

ebay

MA-SHOPS Collector Online Mall

View All >

NCS PMG CGC CCS ASG CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP

COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

NGC®
Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

Volume , Issue 5/02

NGC News

Welcome to the First Edition

Modern technology offers our organization the opportunity to interact with you like never before. Through initiatives like the Collectors' Society and The Certified Coin Registry, we are well on our way to building a great community for collectors and dealers alike. This monthly offering is just another step in our continued effort to effectively communicate with our customers.
Read this article...

Understanding and Recognizing a Star

It is apparent that some coins of a particular grade are far more attractive than others of the same grade. That, in a nutshell, is the idea behind NGC's star (★) designation. NGC defines its star designated coins as those that have exceptional eye appeal.
Read this article...

Understanding the NGC Grading Label and its Use of Supplemental Designations

Collectors, and dealers too, are sometimes puzzled by the many numbers and characters that may appear on an NGC grading label, and I hope to successfully explain herein each of the various elements. All of the data that appear on NGC's grading labels are there for various reasons.
Read this article...

A New Place to Meet and Talk with Collectors

The Collectors' Society has added discussion Boards that are an exciting part of our community. If you're not familiar with the idea, this is a bit like an online bulletin board where collectors can post messages about coins they're looking for, or their opinions on events in the collecting world.
Read this article...

The NGC Certified Coin Registry

Competition is fun. Whether in sports, finance or collecting, everyone enjoys comparing his or her standing against those of people with similar interests.
Read this article...

NGC COLLECTORS SOCIETY
- Submit directly to NGC
- Online submission forms and order tracking
- Memberships from $39/yr

Join Today >

Visit our affiliated websites:

NCS PMG CGC CCS CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP

Official Grading Service of

The NGC Certified Coin Registry

Posted on 5/1/2002

Competition is fun. Whether in sports, finance or collecting, everyone enjoys comparing his or her standing against those of people with similar interests.

In the world of coin collecting, competition traditionally has meant displaying one's collection at a club meeting or coin show. While these avenues are still widely pursued, technology has given hobbyists a far more secure and to some, more gratifying means of competing . . . the Internet. Coin collectors, particularly the more advanced ones, are typically well educated people who are quick to accept the challenges and opportunities presented by Internet usage, and this has led to the creation of on-line competition among collectors in the form of web site registries.

While NGC did not pioneer this concept, we are pleased with how much has been achieved with our Certified Coin Registry. An extensive selection of coin sets is offered, and more are being added on a regular basis. Each date and mint combination is scored over a broad range of grades to reflect the individual rarity of each entry in those respective grades. A date/mint combination that is rare in the higher grades receives a significantly greater number of points than a common date in the same grade, reflecting the greater collecting challenge posed by the rarer coin. In this way, a collection's ranking is truly reflective of the effort and expense that went into assembling it.

Both NGC and PCGS coins may be submitted to the NGC Certified Coin Registry, permitting greater flexibility for those who own coins graded by either of the two major grading services. Coins certified with special designations such as 'FS' (full steps) or 'FBL' (full bell lines) receive greater points than those lacking such designations, the exact amount of the extra weighting being reflective of that date/mint combination's actual rarity with the supplemental designation. In the case of proof coins, CAMEO and ULTRA CAMEO pieces receive higher points that likewise reflect the greater rarity and value of such coins. Finally, examples carrying the coveted NGC star (□) designation receive an additional 25% in bonus

points, as these are coins of superior eye appeal. The NGC ‘W’ designation for untoned coins, while favored by many collectors, does not earn additional points within the NGC Certified Coin Registry.

Persons wishing to participate in this registry may do so by enrolling in the NGC Certified Collectors’ Society. This can be done on-line at the Collectors’ Society web site, www.collectors-society.com, or by calling our Customer Service Department at 1-800-NGC-COIN.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

MA-SHOPS Collector Online Mall

ebay

catawiki

View All ›

NCS PMG CGC CCS ASG CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP

COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

Understanding and Recognizing a Star

Posted on 5/1/2002

It is apparent that some coins of a particular grade are far more attractive than others of the same grade. That, in a nutshell, is the idea behind NGC's star (★) designation. NGC defines its star designated coins as those that have exceptional eye appeal.

It is apparent that some coins of a particular grade are far more attractive than others of the same grade. That, in a nutshell, is the idea behind NGC's star (★) designation. NGC defines its star (★) designated coins as those that have exceptional eye appeal. The coin itself could fall anywhere within the grade it is assigned, i.e.: if it were an MS 64 it could be at the lower end, mid-range or higher end of that grade.

Let me add that a star designated coin should not be thought of in the same way one would think of a 'PQ' (Premium Quality) coin. When I think of a PQ coin, one that just misses the next grade immediately comes to mind. That coin may or may not have exceptional eye appeal. That is not what NGC star designated coins are all about.

Now for the logical question: How do the professional graders at NGC make the determination as to whether or not a coin qualifies for the star? Star designated coins can be either untoned (often referred to as 'white' in some issues) or toned. In order for an untoned coin to qualify it must have full vibrant luster and be free of any distracting planchet irregularities, as well as distracting spots or blemishes. You may think this doesn?t narrow it down a great deal. When this definition is strictly adhered to, it most certainly does narrow the field, as evidenced by the fact that NGC currently has designated far less than one percent of the eligible coins as being of star quality.

Making the determination on a toned coin is bit more complex and subjective. In

order for a toned coin to receive a star designation, it must first be considered attractively toned without objection from the graders who inspect it. Plain and simple, if there is a single objection to a particular coin receiving a star designation upon quality control inspection, it loses the star. It also must have full luster to the extent that the toning does not impede the luster. Furthermore, it must be free of any obvious planchet irregularities and be free of any distracting spots or blemishes. The toning color can be of a single color or multicolored but cannot have any areas that are dark brown approaching black.

In applying star designations to applicable proof coins, all of the above criteria apply for toned coins. Untoned coins, however, must meet one of the additional criteria outlined below to qualify:

- They display cameo or ultra cameo contrast on the obverse only.
- Coins that do not qualify for cameo but which display cameo contrast on both the obverse and reverse that falls just short of NGC's minimum standard for cameo may receive a star. (Coins that display only a subtle contrast will not receive a star or a cameo designation.)
- They qualify for the cameo designation and, in addition, have an ultra cameo obverse.
- They qualify for the ultra cameo designation and, in addition, exhibit exceptionally intense contrast between devices and fields on both the obverse and reverse that exceeds by a generous margin that of the normal ultra cameo standard.

All eligible coins submitted to NGC are automatically reviewed for star designation at no additional charge. Coins already certified by NGC can be reviewed for star designation at a fee of $10 per coin and must be submitted under NGC?s Designation Review service. NGC will continue to expand the eligible coin types for this designation. Stay tuned!

Finally, I leave you with a complete and current listing of the coins that NGC is now reviewing for the prestigious star designation:

- Jefferson Nickels, mint state
- Roosevelt Dimes, mint state
- Washington Quarters, mint state
- Statehood Quarters, mint state
- Franklin Halves, mint state & proof
- Kennedy Halves, mint state
- Morgan Dollars, mint state
- Peace Dollars, mint state

- Eisenhower Dollars, mint state
- Anthony Dollars, mint state
- Sacagawea Dollars, mint state
- All U.S. proof coins from 1936-1978
- Silver Commemoratives 1892-1954

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

MA-SHOPS Collector Online Mall

SIXBID.COM EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

ebay

View All ›

NCS® PMG® CGC® CCS® ASG™ CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP®

COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

Understanding the NGC Grading Label and its Use of Supplemental Designations

Posted on 5/1/2002

Collectors, and dealers too, are sometimes puzzled by the many numbers and characters that may appear on an NGC grading label, and I hope to successfully explain herein each of the various elements. All of the data that appear on NGC's grading labels are there for various reasons.

Some of this information is strictly for tracking purposes, while certain features directly affect a coin's grade.

Some of these elements are obvious and do not require explanation. Anyone who knows something about coins will understand the denomination, date and mintmark, if any. The abbreviations 'MS' and 'PF' on NGC certified coins are easily recognized as standing for Mint State and Proof, respectively. Those who collect or deal in varieties will likely recognize certain standardized abbreviations that appear on the labels of variety coins. An example would be 'DDR' for Doubled-Die Reverse. On NGC-certified coins, this abbreviation is typically accompanied by a number preceded by the letters 'FS.' This is an abbreviation of Fivaz and Stanton, they being the authors of *The Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties*, a popular reference and price guide for the most widely sought varieties. Along with Yeoman's *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (the Red Book), this is the only variety guide recognized by NGC for attributing varieties on modern coin series. There is a small additional fee for receiving this variety attribution, and NGC does not automatically apply such varieties to coins submitted for grading alone.

Also appearing on each NGC grading label is that particular coin's identification number. This consists of six (or more recently, seven) digits followed by a dash and three more

digits. The first sequence of numbers is taken from the pre-printed invoice number under which the coins were submitted. (These numbers are entirely random and are not applied sequentially. Therefore,they cannot be used to determine when a coin was graded.) The numbers following the dash may range from 001 to 099 and simply identify the line on which a particular coin was entered under that invoice number. For example, if you submit three coins under invoice number 1234567, the coin on line 3 will be labeled by NGC as 1234567-003.

In addition to a readable identification number, each label includes a barcode that may be read only by a computer. This includes the same sort of information found in written form on the label, but it also permits coins to be processed quickly while in house and scanned by our customers for their own inventory tracking.

While it once was sufficient to simply place a numerical grade on a coin's label, the growing sophistication of the coin hobby and marketplace has led to the introduction of additional designations. It is with these designations that some confusion may still exist. Certain designations are easy to understand,such as the color designators that follow the numerical grade on copper and bronze coins: BN stands for Brown (or a variety of colors other than mint red), RB identifies a coin having a moderate amount of mint red, while RD on a copper or bronze coin means that it retains all or nearly all of its original mint red color.

In a similar manner, the designations 'FS' (full steps) on Jefferson Nickels, 'FB' (full bands) on Mercury Dimes, 'FH' (full head) on Standing Liberty Quarters and 'FBL' (full bell lines) on Franklin Halves are all important supplements to a coin's numerical grade. For Morgan Dollars and selected other coin types, the designations 'PL' (prooflike) and 'DPL' (deep prooflike) may appear. These indicate only the degree of reflectivity evident in a coin's fields and make no implication as to other qualities associated with proof coins, such as frosted devices and superior sharpness. NGC's use of 'DPL' is equivalent to other grading services' employment of 'DMPL.' These abbreviations mean the same thing, and their alternative use is merely a matter of semantics.

All of the above designations are applied automatically to qualified coins at the time of grading and at no additional cost. NGC certified coins that are lacking such designations may be submitted to NGC for possible addition of them at a small fee.

Another pair of designations important to collectors of proof coins are the words CAMEO and ULTRA CAMEO that appear on some of the NGC certified proofs following the numerical grade. Only the earliest impressions from new proof dies will reveal frosted or satiny legends and devices, as these relief elements quickly

became polished by the repeated interaction of the dies with the planchets. The terms CAMEO and ULTRA CAMEO simply separate different degrees of the same contrasting effect, and NGC's UTLRA CAMEO means the same thing as other grading services' 'DCAM,' or DEEP CAMEO. Once again, this is just a matter of semantics. NGC automatically applies these designations to qualified coins at the time of grading at no additional cost. As with all such designations, NGC certified coins may be submitted for review of their CAMEO or ULTRA CAMEO status for a small fee.

It's very difficult to put into words the difference between CAMEO and ULTRA CAMEO, other than to say that the latter is clearly more pronounced. The dividing line is somewhat subjective, but the important thing to remember is that NGC applies the distinction as consistently as humanly possible and in accordance with widely accepted market standards. For a proof coin to be labeled CAMEO by NGC, it must display contrasting fields and devices on *both sides*. For the ULTRA CAMEO designation, it must have superior contrast on *both sides*. One-sided contrast will not earn a coin the CAMEO designation, though it may be acknowledged for its superior eye appeal through application of the NGC Star designation (this is explained more fully below). Likewise, coins that have ULTRA CAMEO contrast on their obverses only will not be so labeled, but their premium value may be recognized through application of the NGC Star (see below).

In recent years the market for modern (roughly 1940-date) coins has matured greatly. Where once these were traded only by the roll or bag, individual pieces are now eagerly sought in the higher grades. With this growing emphasis on quality, two distinguishing designations have been introduced by NGC to segregate these coins not only by grade but by their appeal to individual tastes too. These designations are the letter 'W' to indicate a "white" or entirely untoned coin and the NGC star, applied to coins of outstanding appearance. These follow a coin's numerical grade on the NGC grading label.

The letter 'W'on the label of an NGC certified silver, nickel or clad coin identifies the piece as having no toning whatsoever. In common marketplace parlance, such pieces are described as being "white" and there are a number of collectors who desire to own nothing else. For that reason, NGC introduced the 'W' to distinguish such coins.

Another innovation of NGC is the star (□) designation for coins having superior aesthetic value, or "eye appeal." It does not apply to so-called PQ (premium quality) coins that fell just short of the next grade. Rather, it applies to coins that are what they are in terms of numerical grade, yet are simply more desirable to the trained eye than

other coins of the same grade. Among the qualities that can earn a coin the coveted □ designation are superior luster and beautiful toning. In the case of proof coins, the □ may be applied to pieces displaying cameo contrast on one side only. While such coins are not eligible for the CAMEO designation, the inclusion of a □ acknowledges that they do possess superior eye appeal. In a similar vein, a coin already determined to be CAMEO on both sides may receive an additional □ designation if its obverse displays ULTRA CAMEO contrast. Finally, a coin designated as ULTRA CAMEO may receive a □ if the graders believe that its degree of contrast is truly superior to the more typical specimen.

Both the 'W' and the □ are applied automatically by NGC's graders to qualifying coins at no additional cost. As with all of NGC's designations, coins already holdered by NGC may be resubmitted at a nominal cost to be examined for their 'W' or □ potential.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

ebay catawiki VCoins View All ›

NCS PMG CGC CCS ASG CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP

COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation United States

Welcome to the First Edition

Posted on 5/1/2002

Modern technology offers our organization the opportunity to interact with you like never before. Through initiatives like the Collectors' Society and The Certified Coin Registry, we are well on our way to building a great community for collectors and dealers alike. This monthly offering is just another step in our continued effort to effectively communicate with our customers.

Modern technology offers our organization the opportunity to interact with you like never before. Through initiatives like the Collectors' Society and The Certified Coin Registry, we are well on our way to building a great community for collectors and dealers alike. This monthly offering is just another step in our continued effort to effectively communicate with our customers.

Our newsletter is designed to keep you informed of important service changes, special promotions and general hobby news. In addition you will find interesting feature articles written by the experts at NGC.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of the NGC E-Newsletter and we look forward to your feedback.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

VCoins SIXBID.COM EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS MA-SHOPS Collector Online Mall View All ›

NCS PMG CGC CCS ASG CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP

COLLECTORS SOCIETY

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States